

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-16 are pending in the present application, Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9-14 having been amended, Claims 15 and 16 having been added, and Claims 1 and 2 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 8 is amended to be written in independent form. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11-14 are amended to change dependencies. Support for new Claims 15 and 16 is found in Claims 1, 2, and 9, and 1, 2, and 10, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Kittaka et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0197042, hereinafter Kittaka); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kittaka in view of Cotteverte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,682, hereinafter Cotteverte); Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kittaka in view of Noda et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/147371, hereinafter Noda); Claim 4 was allowed; and Claims 8-11 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were otherwise indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claim 8 is written in independent form, including the subject matter of Claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, Claim 8 (and Claims 3 and 6 dependent thereon) are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Claims 5 and 9 are amended to depend on allowed Claim 4. Thus, Claims 5 and 9 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

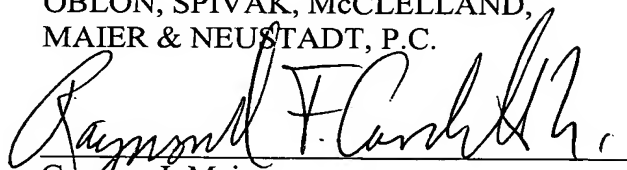
Multiple dependent Claims 7 and 10-14 are amended to depend, directly or indirectly, on allowed Claim 4 or on allowable Claim 8. Thus, Claims 10-14 are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

New Claim 15 is a combination of Claims 9, 2, and 1. New Claim 16 is a combination of Claims 10, 2, and 1. Accordingly, as Claims 15 and 16 include the subject indicated as allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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